

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Submitted herewith is a copy of Fig. 2 on which has been marked in red a proposed revision and a proposed new Fig. 27 for consideration by the Examiner. Upon approval of the drawing revision and the new figure and allowance of the application, the formal drawings will be accordingly revised.

REMARKS

In the March 31, 2003 Office Action, the Examiner objected to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. §1.83(a) as failing to show the feature recited in claim 6. The drawings were further objected to as failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. §1.84(p)(5) because Fig. 2 does not show reference sign R1 described on page 13 of the specification. In the previously filed response dated June 30, 2003, applicants indicated that the drawings were being suitable revised to overcome the drawing objections and that proposed drawing revisions would be submitted to the Examiner by supplemental response.

By this supplemental response, a proposed drawing revision has been submitted in Fig. 2 to show the reference sign R1 described on page 13 of the specification. A proposed new Fig. 27 has been submitted which shows the embodiment of the probe 1 having a plurality of surfaces 1a, 1b with different taper angles, as recited in claim 6. The specification has been suitably revised to correct

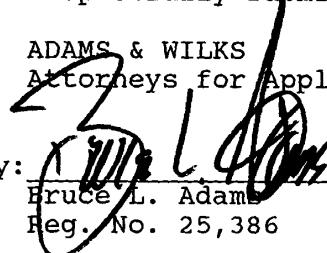
informalities and to conform the written description to the drawing revisions.

In view of the foregoing, applicants respectfully submit that the objection to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. §1.83(a) as failing to show the feature recited in claim 6 and the objection to the drawings as failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. §1.84(p)(5) have been overcome and should be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendments and discussion, the application is believed to be in allowable form. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance of the claims are most respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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MAILING CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: MS NON-FEE AMENDMENT, COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date indicated below.

Debra Buonincontri

Name

Debra Buonincontri

Signature

August 7, 2003

Date